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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,969	06/29/2001	Seiki Tomita	WEN-002	6129
7590 09/01/2004				
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, P.L.L. C Suite 501 1233 20th Street NW Washington, DC 20036			EXAMINER JOHNSON III, HENRY M	
			ART UNIT 3739	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/893,969		TOMITA ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
Henry M Johnson, III		3739		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/4/2002.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>040402</u> .	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

controlling a plurality of ophthalmic microsurgical instruments. The system uses a central processing unit with a communications backplane to interface with multiple instrument control modules (Fig. 2, # 13) for independently controlling multiple instruments (Fig. 2, # 19). Each of the modules 13 and peripherals operate independently of the other modules 13 and peripherals while still being linked by the network. Thus, the failure of one component will not affect the functionality of the other components of system 1. In addition to embedded control software, each module 13 and peripheral incorporates built-in-tests so



Art Unit: 3739

that specific failures can be identified and reported to computer unit 3 and, thus, be reported to the user. The operational status of each module 13 and peripheral is continually checked during operation through the use of a software watchdog timer (Col. 15, lines 25-35).

A hard drive stores the various programs for operating system 1, including the programs normally resident in modules 13 (Col. 15, lines 39-42). This requires the modules to have communication units and memory. The system 1 is interpreted as the operation unit and includes a display (Fig. 1, # 5) and a touch responsive screen (Col. 15, line 15). The display, at start-up, allows the user to select the various surgical functions available for either the anterior or posterior portions of the patient's eye or to select a utilities program for programming the system or for performing other setup functions. When the user selects either the anterior portion or the posterior portion, computer unit 3 preferably displays a surgeon selection menu on flat panel display (Fig. 1, # 5). According to the invention, hard drive stores an individualized set of initial operating parameters for each surgeon listed on the menu. In response to the user's selections, computer unit 3 sets the operating portion to either anterior or posterior with the appropriate set of initial operating parameters depending on the user's selections. If desired, the surgeon may then change the operating parameters from their default values (Col. 18, lines 22-40). The menu selections act as the "selection switch". Screens for unique functions are also stored, for example to adjust the aspiration, (see Fig. 22). The instruments disclosed for use with the system include Vitrectomy cutters, phacoemulsification or phacofragmentation handpieces, electric microscissors, fiber optic illumination instruments, coagulation handpieces and other microsurgical instruments known in the art.

Regarding claims 6, 7 and 14, the watchdog timers provide confirmation of the integrity of the system, including proper communications.

Art Unit: 3739

Regarding claims 8 and 15, a trigger is provided by a foot switch (Fig. 1, # 15) and/or a "switch" on the touch panel display.

Regarding claim 9, Applebaum specifically discloses use with a coagulation handpiece and an irrigation/aspiration/vitrectomy module (Fig. 32). The coagulation unit is broadly interpreted to include laser photocoagulation as is well known in the art.

Regarding claim 13, the computer is interpreted as a first control part and the settings inputted via the touch panel are communicated to the second control part via the computer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

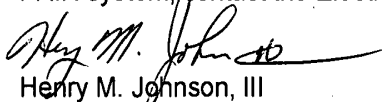
Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,117,126 to Applebaum et al. (Applebaum). Applebaum is discussed above, but does not teach specific screen background colors. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to program screen colors in any appropriate colors because Applicant has not disclosed that a specific color provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with any screen color combinations that provided readability of the displays because operation is not dependent on the cosmetics of the display. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to program any color in the display of Applebaum to obtain the invention as specified in claims 3 and 12.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry M Johnson, III whose telephone number is (703) 305-0910. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C Dvorak can be reached on (703) 308-0994. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Henry M. Johnson, III
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3739